

KCC 4974  
K-C 18,840  
PATENT

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An absorbent article, comprising a unitary system of microlayered film constructed and arranged for performing the multiple functions of such absorbent article, said system comprising;
  - at least one first microlayer film region having a liquid intake function,
  - at least one second microlayer film region having a liquid uptake and distribution function,
  - at least one third microlayer film region having a liquid retention function, and
  - at least one fourth microlayer film region having a liquid barrier function.
2. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, in which at least two of said first, second, third and fourth microlayer film regions are coextruded and assembled with the other of said film regions to form the unitary microlayered film system.
3. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 2, in which said first and second microlayer film regions are coextruded to form a first multilayered film subsystem unit.

KCC 4974  
K-C 18,840  
PATENT

4. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 2, in which said third and fourth microlayer film regions are coextruded to form a second subsystem unit.
5. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 2, in which all of said first, second, third and fourth microlayer film regions are coextruded to form the unitary microlayered film system.
6. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 2, in which at least one of said second or third microlayer film regions is coextruded with at least one of said first or fourth microlayer film regions.
7. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said first microlayer film region comprises a bodyside liner having an open area from about 30% to about 90% of the bodyside liner, said second microlayer film region has a density from about 0.015g/cc to about 0.05 g/cc, ~~said third microlayer film region has an absorbent capacity of at least about 10 grams of saline per gram of microlayer film in the region,~~ and said fourth microlayer film region comprises a liquid barrier outer cover sheet.
8. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, in which said microlayer film regions each comprise at least two microlayers forming a laminate.
9. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 8, in which the laminate comprises a thermoplastic melt extendable

KCC 4974  
K-C 18,840  
PATENT

elastomer microlayer and a melt extendable non-elastic polymer microlayer.

10. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 9 wherein the laminate includes a multiplicity of alternating elastomer and non-elastic polymer microlayers.

11. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 10, in which the laminate is constructed and arranged to be stretched after coextrusion to form multiple film corrugations.

12. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 11 wherein at least two of said microlayer film regions have microchannels therein.

13. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 12, in which at least the second and third microlayer film regions have microchannels therein.

14. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 13 wherein the first microlayer film region is substantially free of microchannels.

15. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 14 wherein the fourth microlayer film region is substantially free of microchannels.

16. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the microchannels in the third microlayer film region

KCC 4974  
K-C 18,840  
PATENT

have a smaller mean size than microchannels in the second film region.

17. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 13 wherein the microchannels in the third microlayer film region have a smaller mean size than any microchannels in the first, second and fourth microlayer film regions.

18. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 10, in which said third microlayer film region further includes a superabsorbent.

19. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 18, in which said one elastomer microlayer and said one non-elastic polymer microlayer and said superabsorbent are coextruded together.

20. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is a personal care product.

21. (Original) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the personal care product is one of a diaper, an adult incontinence product, a training pant, a feminine hygiene product and a wound dressing.

22. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a liquid intake region, a liquid uptake and distribution region, a liquid retention region and a barrier region, at least the liquid retention region and the barrier region comprising ~~[[a]] microlayer film films~~.

KCC 4974  
K-C 18,840  
PATENT

23. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 wherein the retention region is formed entirely of microlayer film.

24. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 23 wherein at least one other of said regions is formed of microlayer film.

25. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 wherein at least one of the regions is free of microlayer film.

26-39. Cancelled.

40. (New) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first microlayer film region includes perforations, and wherein the fourth microlayer film region is substantially free of perforations.

41 (New) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first microlayer film is substantially non-delaminated, and wherein at least one of the other regions is at least partially delaminated.

42. (New) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 wherein liquid uptake and distribution region includes perforations, and wherein the barrier region is substantially free of perforations.

43 (New) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 wherein the intake region is a substantially non-delaminated

KCC 4974  
K-C 18,840  
PATENT

microlayer film, and wherein the liquid retention region is  
at least partially delaminated.